



CHELMSFORD

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Chelmsford is a suburban industrial town located in the Merrimack Valley. The community had a slow start since much of its present area was contained in a so-called Praying Town, established as a preserve for Christianized Indians in 1653. But fresh water fishing, access to abundant fish runs in Merrimack and Concord, and good agricultural lands along its rivers attracted residents and there was rapid growth in the community after the eighteenth century annexation of the Indian lands. (The native inhabitants of the Praying Town had been deported during King Philip's War and few returned.)

Chelmsford was a community of agriculture and grazing, with dairying and orchards as specialties. There was some lumbering, and a series of small operations such as grist mills, lime quarries, and brick yards. In the 19th century, machine shops, match makers and a granite quarry which supplied the material for Quincy Market, operated in Chelmsford. The foreign-born population of the town was mostly from Ireland.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Lowell and Tyngsborough on the north, Billerica and Tewksbury on the east, Carlisle on the south, and Westford on the west. Chelmsford is 24 miles north of Boston, 40 miles northeast of Worcester, and 225 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 23.18 sq. miles

Land Area: 22.65 sq. miles

Population: 32,383

Density: 1,430 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Billerica, Westford, Nashua South, Lowell

Regional Planning Agency

Northern Middlesex

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Lowell



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 250-5201

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1655

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	19,046		
Democrats	5,098	26.8	%
Republicans	3,015	15.8	%
Other parties	9	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	10,924	57.4	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Chelmsford town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	33,858	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	33,858	100.0
Male.....	16,364	48.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	418	1.2
Female.....	17,494	51.7	Mexican.....	63	0.2
Under 5 years.....	2,264	6.7	Puerto Rican.....	181	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	2,386	7.0	Cuban.....	25	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	2,398	7.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	149	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	1,989	5.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	33,440	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	1,193	3.5	White alone.....	31,291	92.4
25 to 34 years.....	4,161	12.3	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	6,287	18.6	Total population.....	33,858	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	5,136	15.2	In households.....	33,379	98.6
55 to 59 years.....	2,008	5.9	Householder.....	12,812	37.8
60 to 64 years.....	1,618	4.8	Spouse.....	7,815	23.1
65 to 74 years.....	2,372	7.0	Child.....	10,600	31.3
75 to 84 years.....	1,512	4.5	Own child under 18 years.....	8,018	23.7
85 years and over.....	534	1.6	Other relatives.....	1,191	3.5
Median age (years).....	38.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	334	1.0
18 years and over.....	25,403	75.0	Nonrelatives.....	961	2.8
Male.....	12,023	35.5	Unmarried partner.....	478	1.4
Female.....	13,380	39.5	In group quarters.....	479	1.4
21 years and over.....	24,576	72.6	Institutionalized population.....	467	1.4
62 years and over.....	5,340	15.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	12	-
65 years and over.....	4,418	13.0	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,761	5.2	Total households.....	12,812	100.0
Female.....	2,657	7.8	Family households (families).....	9,307	72.6
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	4,403	34.4
One race.....	33,552	99.1	Married-couple family.....	7,815	61.0
White.....	31,520	93.1	With own children under 18 years.....	3,711	29.0
Black or African American.....	266	0.8	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,148	9.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	23	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	563	4.4
Asian.....	1,563	4.6	Nonfamily households.....	3,505	27.4
Asian Indian.....	460	1.4	Householder living alone.....	2,963	23.1
Chinese.....	690	2.0	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,233	9.6
Filipino.....	15	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	4,647	36.3
Japanese.....	38	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	3,171	24.8
Korean.....	136	0.4	Average household size.....	2.61	(X)
Vietnamese.....	62	0.2	Average family size.....	3.11	(X)
Other Asian ¹	162	0.5	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	-	Total housing units.....	13,025	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	12,812	98.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	2	-	Vacant housing units.....	213	1.6
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	44	0.3
Some other race.....	177	0.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.2	(X)
Two or more races.....	306	0.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.9	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:</i> ³			Occupied housing units.....	12,812	100.0
White.....	31,800	93.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	10,743	83.9
Black or African American.....	327	1.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	2,069	16.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	100	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.74	(X)
Asian.....	1,680	5.0	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.93	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	12	-			
Some other race.....	272	0.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 201

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 3

Federal (Section 8): 154



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The development of transportation resources in the Merrimack River Valley, where Chelmsford is situated, was shaped by the history of the region as a major site of American industrial development in the nineteenth century. The area has exceptionally good highway and rail facilities linking the major cities and towns to each other and to the port, airport, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 3 and Interstate Route 495, which forms the outer belt around Boston.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available from the neighboring towns of Lowell (travel time 45-49 min.; 680 MBTA parking spaces), and Billerica (travel time 37-41 min.; 333 spaces). The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service in Chelmsford. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Chelmsford is a member of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA), which provides fixed bus service between Lowell and Chelmsford. Paratransit services, including medical trips to Boston and special work trips, are available for the elderly and disabled through LRTA's Road Runner program. The Council on Aging also provides paratransit services.

Other

Chelmsford is within easy commuting and trucking distance of the Boston docks, rail and bus terminals, and of Logan International Airport. Commercial airports in neighboring Tewksbury and Bedford are also easily accessible. Flight Line provides bus service from Chelmsford to both Manchester Airport in New Hampshire and Logan Airport in Boston.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Chelmsford Public Library](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

The Chelmsford Historical Society
40 Byam Road
(978) 256-2311

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Palm Manor Nursing Home

Sunny Acres Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.